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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,680	08/22/2003	Lionel J. Milberger	DQIP-142-1	1011

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EXAMINER	
NICHOLSON, ERIC K	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3679	

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/646,680	MILBERGER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric K Nicholson	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the latch body in the shape of a c-ring as claimed in claims 10,11 and 14 must be shown or the feature cancelled from the claim. No new matter should be entered.

Claim Objections

Claims 1,12, 15, and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 1, line 15; claim 12, line 19 and claim 15, line 11 and 17 the "projecting member" is improperly referred to as the "partially projecting member" without proper antecedent basis for the projecting member to be "partially" projecting. In claim 17 the "shoulder" is improperly referred to as the "safety shoulder" without proper antecedent basis for the shoulder to be a "safety" shoulder. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,609,734 to Baugh. The Baugh connection teaches the present invention as claimed in claims 1,12 and 15 with an upper tubular member 2 having an upper axis and a lower tubular member 50 having a lower axis, the tubular connection including a latch body 61 radially movable between an unlatch position (fig. 1) and a latched position (fig. 2). An engaging surface on the upper tubular member engages with a stop surface on the lower tubular member as shown in fig. 2 and inner, angled load flanks 53,10 on each tubular member. The connection further includes outer load flanks 63,60 on the latch body 61 for engaging the inner load flanks 53, 10 on each tubular member to urge the engaging surface axially toward the stop surface. The connection also includes a radially projecting member 12 the tubular member 2 as shown in figs. 1 and 2 extending radially outward substantially beyond the outer load flank on the tubular member axially adjacent the projecting member with a guide recess 81 in the latch body for receiving the radially projecting member to guide the latch body along a desired trajectory when the latch body is moved radially from the unlatch position to the latched position. As to claim 2 the radial length of the radially projecting member and a radial depth of the guide recess limits movement

of the latch body with respect to the tubular members as when the latch member is in the position shown in fig 1 since it can go no farther. As to claim 3 the radially projecting member 12 is at least partially positioned within the guide recess when the latch body is in the unlatched position and the inner load flanks are radially spaced from the outer load flanks as shown in fig. 1. As to claims 4 and 17, the actuator 30 is axially movable with respect to the latch body; and a shoulder formed via the curved outer surface on the latch body is moveable by the actuator. The shoulder is angled to urge the latch body radially outward as shown in fig. 1. As to claims 5 and 7 the actuator is fluid powered via fluid ports 32,33. As to claims 6 and 16 an axially moveable cam member 40 urges the latch radially inwardly as shown in fig. 2 and the cam member 40 has a cam surface angled with respect to the latch body as shown by the curved surface. As to claim 8 the connection further includes a sealing member 13 for sealing between the tubular members as shown in figs. 1 and 2. As to claims 9 and 13 the curved surface of the cam member 40 can be viewed as a bias member for radially biasing the latch body toward the unlatched position as shown in fig. 1. As to claims 10,11 and 14 the latch body comprises a c-ring portion 61 as shown in fig. 4 where portions of the latch body are curved along inner and outer surfaces in the shape of a "c ring".

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 4,516,795 to Baugh. The Baugh connection teaches the present invention as claimed in claims 1,12 and 15 with an upper tubular member "U" having an upper axis and a lower tubular member "W" having a lower axis, the tubular connection including a latch body "S" radially movable between an unlatch position (fig. 2) and a latched position (fig. 1). An engaging surface 15 on the upper

tubular member engages with a stop surface on the lower tubular member as shown in fig. 2 and inner, angled load flanks 23a, 14 on each tubular member. The connection further includes outer load flanks 24,41 on the latch body "S" for engaging the inner load flanks 23a, 14 on each tubular member to urge the engaging surface axially toward the stop surface as shown in fig. 1. The connection also includes a radially projecting member with a surface 40 latching member "S" as shown in figs. 1 and 2 extending radially inwardly substantially beyond the outer load flank 23a on the tubular member axially adjacent the projecting member with a guide recess 22 in the tubular member "U" for receiving the radially projecting member to guide the latch body along a desired trajectory when the latch body is moved radially from the unlatch position to the latched position. As to claim 2 the radial length of the radially projecting member and a radial depth of the guide recess limits movement of the latch body with respect to the tubular members as when the latch member is in the position shown in fig 2 since it can go no farther. As to claim 3 the radially projecting member with surface 40 is at least partially positioned within the guide recess when the latch body is in the unlatched position and the inner load flanks are radially spaced from the outer load flanks as shown in fig. 2. As to claims 4 and 17, the actuator "P" is axially movable with respect to the latch body; and a shoulder formed via the curved outer surface on the latch body is moveable by the actuator. The shoulder is angled to urge the latch body radially outward as shown in fig. 2. As to claims 5 and 7 the actuator is fluid powered via fluid ports 70,71. As to claims 6 and 16 an axially moveable cam member "R" urges the latch radially inwardly as shown in fig. 1 and the cam member "R" has a cam surface angled with respect to the latch body as shown by the curved surface. As to claim 8 the connection further includes a sealing member shown radially inside the engaging surfaces 20 of the upper and lower

members for sealing between the tubular members as shown in figs. 1 and 2. As to claims 9 and 13 the curved surface of the cam member "R" can be viewed as a bias member for radially biasing the latch body toward the unlatched position as shown in fig. 2. As to claims 10,11 and 14 the latch body comprises a c-ring portion "S" as shown in fig. 2a where portions of the latch body are curved along inner and outer surfaces in the shape of a "c ring".

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Nicholson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0829. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesdays thru Fridays from 7:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola, can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for Technology Center 3600 is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

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W@H
4/20/04

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